

states, and 8 counties are expected to lose population. Twelve of the 14 growth counties are located in North Carolina.

These data indicate that population growth rates vary from county to county as well as regionally. To further illustrate this point, select counties from Tschetter's classification were analyzed. The "coastline" counties of North Carolina are experiencing tremendous growth in permanent populations. Currituck, Dare, and Carteret Counties are among the fastest growing counties in North Carolina. During the 1970s, the growth rate in Dare County exceeded the state-wide rate by almost 6 times, Currituck's exceeded that of the state by almost 4 times, and Carteret's exceeded that of the state by almost 2 times. During the 1980s Dare County was the fastest growing county in the state (70%), growing 5.5 times faster than the state-wide average; Currituck County grew 1.9 times faster than the state average; and Carteret County grew 2.2 times faster than the state average. While these general trends are projected to continue throughout the next decade, growth rates are expected to slow. Hyde County is a coastline county, but it has been losing population during the past decade and is expected to continue to do so throughout the next.

Of the "sound" counties, Beaufort County grew at a rate slightly below that of the state in the 1970s, and significantly below the state in the 1980s and the 1990s. The growth rate of Craven County was below that of the state during the 1970s, but the county surpassed the state's growth rate by 2% in the 1980s. Rapid growth is expected to continue.

There are mixed growth rates for the "drainage basin" counties. Durham and Johnston Counties grew at a rate slightly below that of the state during the 1970s; however, both exceeded the state's growth rate during the 1980s. Wake County grew at twice the state's growth rate during the 1970s, and is now the third fastest growing county in the state (40.5% since 1980). Nash County grew at a rate below the state average in the 1970s, but exceeded the state average in the 1980s. Pitt County grew at double the state's growth rate during the 1970s; its growth rate slowed in the 1980s but continued to exceed the state average. Population growth in Wayne County equalled the state's growth during the 1970s, but it is projected to grow at a rate well below that of the state during the 1980s and lose population during the 1990s.

Finally, two counties in Virginia, selected for analysis, also present a picture of contrasting growth rates. Currently, the City of Virginia Beach is the second fastest growing area in the state. During the 1960s Virginia Beach grew in population 102%; during the 1970s it grew 52% (3.5 times greater than the state-wide growth); during the 1980s it grew 49.9%, more than triple Virginia's growth rate. Southampton County lost population during the 1970s and 1980s and is projected to experience little or no growth during the remainder of this century. Overall, the Virginia portion of the A/P Study area grew 29.4% in the 1980s, with the vast majority of that growth occurring in the eastern and coastal regions.

In summary, the A/P study area is projected to have a population of approximately 3 million by 2000. The growth rate of the North Carolina portion of the A/P study area is expected to slightly exceed state-wide levels until the year 2000. Growth rates tended to be highest in the coastline counties. Craven County was the fastest growing sound county. Among the drainage basin counties, Wake, Durham, Orange and Pitt had the highest growth rates over the 30 year study period. In Virginia, a similar pattern is projected. Virginia Beach, on the coast, is experiencing the greatest increases in population.

A/P counties in North Carolina and Virginia, are experiencing varying levels of population growth. Some of these counties are among the fastest growing counties in their respective states. Dare County and Virginia Beach are experiencing growth rates that are exceeding state-wide levels by 5.5 and 3.0 times, respectively. Numerous counties in the study area, however, are experiencing growth rates well below state levels and many counties are losing permanent residents. The counties which lost population